CLAIMS

We claim:

1.   A real-time method for exchanging information between a first computing platform and a second computing platform, said method comprising:

on said first platform, originating a request for information located on said second platform;

translating said request into a predetermined format;

transmitting the translated request to said second platform; and

translating the translated request from the predetermined format into a format readable by said second platform.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein said predetermined format is eXtensible Markup Language ("XML").

3.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

accessing the requested information on the second platform;

translating the requested information into the predetermined format; and

transmitting the requested information to the first platform in said predetermined format.

4.   The method of claim 3 further comprising:

translating the requested information from the predetermined format to a format readable on the first platform; and

using the requested information on the first platform.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said transmitting step uses an HTTP.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein said HTTP transmission is secure.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said request includes authentication information for access to information on said second platform.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said authentication information comprises a user identification and a password.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said request includes information for locating the requested information on said second platform.

10. A system for sharing data comprising:

a first computing platform;

a second computing platform;

an interoperability component coupled to both said first computing platform and said second computing platform.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein said interoperability component is configured to translate data to a format readable by both said first computing platform and said second computing platform.

12. The system of claim 11 wherein said interoperability component is further configured to transmit data between said first computing platform and said second computing platform.

13. The system of claim 11 wherein said interoperability component is configured to translate data to an eXtensible Markup Language ("XML") format.

14. A method of translating data into an XML format comprising:

receiving a request for information;

parsing said request into one or more different fields of information; and

creating an XML format of the request by delimiting each of said fields with an identifying tag or pair of tags.